

# ***Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project***

## ***Final Environmental Impact Statement***

**Responsible Agency:** U.S. Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Cooperating Agency:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS)

**Title of Proposed Project:** Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project

**State Involved:** Washington

**Abstract:** BPA is proposing to build a new transmission line to accommodate increasing demand for electricity and ensure reliability in the Puget Sound area. The Proposed Action would construct a new line that would connect to an existing transmission line near the community of Kangley, and then connect with BPA's existing Echo Lake Substation. The major purpose of this proposal is to improve system reliability in the King County area. An outage on an existing line during times of heavy use, such as during a winter cold snap, could cause voltage instability and a loss of power in the King County area. System planners have projected total system load using normal growth in demand and determined that system instability could have developed as early as the winter of 2002-03.

Besides meeting this need for system reliability, this project would enhance the United States' delivery of power to Canada as required under the Columbia River Treaty of 1961.

BPA described and analyzed transmission route alternatives in a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) released in June 2001 and additional transmission route alternatives and a non-transmission alternative in a supplemental draft environmental impact statement (SDEIS) released in January 2003 (the SDEIS incorporated the original DEIS and new information developed for the SDEIS). The Proposed Action and Alternatives 2, 3, 4A and 4B cross the Cedar River Municipal Watershed. Alternatives A and C are located to the west of the Cedar River Municipal Watershed boundary. Alternatives B and D are also outside the Cedar River Municipal Watershed and cross the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests. Under all transmission alternatives, Echo Lake Substation would be expanded about three acres to the east and new equipment to accommodate the new line would be installed. The non-transmission alternative considered several non-transmission measures to defer the need for a transmission line. BPA also analyzed a No Action Alternative.

This abbreviated final environmental impact statement (FEIS) contains the changes made to the SDEIS, comments received on the DEIS and the SDEIS, and BPA's written responses to the comments. The FEIS should be used as a companion to the SDEIS, which contains the full text of the affected environment, environmental analysis and appendices.

BPA expects to issue a Record of Decision on the proposed project in August 2003.

For additional information, contact:

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For additional information on DOE National Environmental Policy Act activities, please contact Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, U. S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington D.C. 20585, phone: 1-800-472-2756.